



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

January 14, 2016

The Honorable Christopher Hart
Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20594

Dear Chairman Hart:

It is critical that we determine the cause of the El Faro sinking to prevent tragedies like this from happening again. To assist in this endeavor, I urge you to take every step possible to recover the missing voyage data recorder.

On Tuesday, September 29th, the container ship El Faro left Jacksonville, Florida en route to San Juan, Puerto Rico. In a distress call two days later, El Faro reported that it had lost propulsion, was listing and had taken on water. The NTSB launched an initial search to locate the ship, document the wreckage and recover the voyage data recorder. Unfortunately, the NTSB was unable to recover the voyage data recorder.

While I have faith in your ability to complete this investigation with the information you have gathered, it is important to ensure the most complete investigation possible. I urge you to strongly consider another search to locate the missing recorder.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Nelson